Professional Development On a Shoestring Budget

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NACADA 2015
Session Agenda

• Professional Development Overview
• University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Story
• University of Wisconsin-Stout Story
• Your Own Advising Organization
• Hosting a Professional Development Workshop
• Professional Development Resources and Ideas
What Is Professional Development?

- Learning Opportunities
- Coursework
- Conferences
- Mentoring
- Workshops
- Seminars
- Trainings

- Institutes
- Communities of Practice
- Reading
- Coaching
How might it be described?

• Intensive
• Collaborative
• Assessed
• Reflective
What is the value of professional development?

- “Advisors base their work with students on the most relevant theoretical perspectives and practices drawn from the fields of social sciences, the humanities, and education.”

- “Advisors seek opportunities to grow professionally.”

- Professional development allows opportunities to:
  - Meet people
  - Open doors
  - Advance expertise
  - Hone professional skills
  - Keep interest high
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Overview

- 10,902 undergraduate students
- 1:21 faculty:student ratio
- 1 in 4 students study abroad
- 80 Undergraduate majors, 14 Graduate, 1 Doctoral
- Mixed advising model
- Located in Eau Claire, WI
  - Population 101,564
  - ~100 miles east of Minneapolis, MN
Eau Claire Advising Network (ECAN) Story
Eau Claire Advising Network (ECAN)

• WACADA 2012 – UWSP Session on SPACADA

• Eau Claire Advising Network
  • Inaugural gathering spring 2013
  • Professional advisors
  • Monthly meetings
  • Varied topics for discussion, based on group interest
  • Created the "Lucy Booth"
  • Expanded to include
    • Center for International Education
    • Career Services
    • Admissions
    • Services for Students with Disabilities
Eau Claire Advising Network (ECAN)

- Currently 21 member
- 15 survey respondents (71 %)
- Experience = <1 year and >13 years
- Majority have attended 6 or more meetings
- Goal = provide a forum for communication, collaboration, networking
  - 13 of 15 respondents ranked ECAN as very effective on meeting each aspect of the goal.
Eau Claire Advising Network (ECAN)

- What has been the best outcome of your involvement?
  - getting to know others; facilitate connections across departments
  - Learning about programs, requirements, deadlines, events, campus policies (staying informed)
  - Sharing ideas
  - Having other colleagues to count on

- We have new ideas for this year!
  - Shard leadership
  - Meeting minutes
  - Ask each person to provide an update on their area
  - ideas for professional development
University of Wisconsin-Stout Overview

- 9,371 Fall 2014 Enrollment
  - 88% Undergraduate, 12% Graduate
  - 65% WI, 31% 48 other states, 4% international
  - 51% Male, 49% Female

- 47 Undergraduate Majors, 20 Graduate Majors

- Located in Menomonie, WI (pop. 16,264)
  - 25 miles from Eau Claire
  - 80 miles from Twin Cities Metro Area

- First Year Advising Model
Stout Advising Network Story

- WACADA 2012 – UWSP Session on SPACADA
  - Previous SPACADA Member 2008-2009
- Stout Advising Network
  - First Meeting April 2013
  - Formed after campus wide survey on purpose, topics, etc.
  - Meets monthly, set time
  - Open to anyone interested
  - Topics discussed vary
- Attendance has included:
  - Full-time academic advisors
  - Faculty advisors
  - International Education advisors
  - Student Support Services advisors
  - Admissions, etc.
Stout Advising Network

- 20 responded to survey, 65% response rate
- Experience ranged from <1 year to >13 years, most attended 6+ meetings
- 100% stated they felt the Network was Somewhat or Very Effective in reaching original goal “to provide a resource network for collaboration and communication across campus regarding advising issues.”

- Best outcome for you as an individual:
  - “Simply gaining knowledge of other programs on campus and what they offer to our students.”
  - “More in depth understanding of tools available to advisors.”
  - “Letting the group identify items for the agenda.”
Your Own Advising Organization?

- Administration support?
- Coordination?
- Who?
- When?
- What?
- Why?
- Where?

- Budget?
- Allied Organization to NACADA?
Lessons Learned
Professional Development On Your Campus

- University Committees/Councils
- Search Committees
- UW-EC examples
  - Leadership Collaborative, 7 Habits, Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP), Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL)
- UW-Stout examples
  - Building Opportunities for Leadership Development (BOLD) Project, January Professional Development Week, Honors Colloquium, Edge Sessions, Engagement Sessions and follow up committees
Host a Professional Development Workshop

• WACADA Story

• Stout Events
  – 2014 – 32 attendees, 3 institutions
    – 100% agreed worth the investment of time/travel
  – 2015 – 30 attendees, 5 institutions
    – 100% agreed worth the investment of time/travel

• Steps to consider
  – Budget or no budget?
  – WACADA has supported WI workshops.
    – Will your state organization?
Handouts & Session Evaluations
Thank you!

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